DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 428 998 SO 029 637

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TITLE Florida History. Teaching with Primary Sources Series, Volume 11.
ISBN ISBN-0-382408-76-4
PUB DATE 1998-00-00
NOTE 120p.; For related items, see SO 029 634-636.
AVAILABLE FROM Cobblestone Publishing Company, 30 Grove Street, Suite C, Peterborough, NH 03458; Tel: 800-821-0115 (Toll Free); Fax: 603-924-7380 ($28.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Class Activities; Intermediate Grades; Learning Activities; Secondary Education; Social Studies; *State History; State Standards; *Thinking Skills; Units of Study
IDENTIFIERS *Florida; *Florida State Standards for Social Studies

ABSTRACT

Intended for teachers of grades 5 and up, this unit on Florida history aims to help teachers satisfy two educational goals of the Florida State Standards for Social Studies. The first goal is to incorporate Florida history into the curricula. The second goal is to prepare students for assessment of their ability to interpret primary sources. The unit contains: (1) a list of the documents with a brief description of the document, a synopsis of its historical significance to the unit's theme, and its specific reference; (2) the set of document reproductions; and (3) classroom activities that involve various documents. Documents in the unit are organized chronologically and the activities are organized thematically. Each activity specifies the State Standard it is intended to satisfy. The units' approach aims to help students connect what they learn with how they live so that they become good problem-solvers and wise decision-makers. The activities allow students to collect, organize, interpret, and weigh the significance of factual evidence to achieve a systematic document analysis. Students are able to compare and contrast evidence from different sources, identify factual information and separate it from opinion, identify points of view and biases, and develop defensible inferences, conclusions, and generalizations from factual evidence. (BT)

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